

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 XMB-07 OPIC-12

RSR-01 /140 W

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R 170740Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1528

INFO AMEBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4609

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EIND, AS

SUBJ: WHITLAM'S STATEMENTS AT OTTAWA CRITICIZING

MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF: OTTAWA 1925; SINGAPORE 3200; CANBERRA 4441

1. IN COVERSATION WITH DEPUTY PRIMIN LANCE BARNARD
AUGUST 15, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED HIS CONCERN OVER PRIMIN'S
ATTACK UPON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (WHICH HAS RECEIVED
MUCH PRESS ATTENTION IN AUSTRALIA).

2. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE SHOWING
SOME ANXIETY ABOUT PRIMIN'S POSITION AND ABOUT THEIR FUTURE
PROSPECT. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT WHILE HE COULD UNDERSTAND
GOA DESIRE TO LIMIT FOREIGN CONTROL OF AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES
HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THIS BLAST AT MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATION. IT SEEMED TO REFLECT A SORT OF IDEOLOGICAL
BIAS RATHER OUT OF KEEPING WITH WHITLAM'S TWO EXCELLENT
SPEECHES IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. AMBASSADOR SAID HE
HOPED THAT GOA WOULD DO NOTHING WHICH MIGHT UPSET THE GOOD
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ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY WHITLAM'S WASHINGTON VISIT.

3. BARNARD RESPONDED THAT AMBASSADOR SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED BY THESE PASSING REMARKS OF PM. THEY REFLECTED NO INTENT TO MOVE AGAINST MULTINATIONALS AND HAD ARISEN IN THE SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE OTTAWA MEETING. BARNARD SAID PRIMIN HAD NO DOUBT REALIZED THAT THE PLAYBACK IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS WOULD HELP HIM PLACATE THE LEFT WING OF THE LABOR PARTY.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE BARNARD'S SOOTHING RESPONSE, EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT WHITLAM STATEMENTS PLAY TO EMOTIONS OF LESS INFORMED AUSTRALIAN NATIONALISTS AND ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT (E.G., CAMERON AND CONNOR) WHO ARE DEEPLY BIASED AGAINST FOREIGN INVESTMENT. AMBASSADOR WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION AT MEETING SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK WITH AMCHAM LEADERS.
GREEN

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NNN

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